having this minor question settled at that late night hour, but the chairman grasped the meaning of our proposal. "This makes sense," he said. "I second the plan. . . . No objections? Accepted. The session is adjourned. Now, gentlemen, you can go ahead without being harassed by the police. Are you satisfied now, Mr. Woytinsky —excuse me, Mr. Petrov?"

Were we satisfied! We had won a sizable loaf of bread for the unemployed and legalized our organization to carry on our campaign for public works!

Two days later the St. Petersburg S-D Conference convened to discuss our clash with the Committee.[1] This was our day. The Conference was unanimous in approving our conduct and condemning the attitude of the Committee. I accepted the reproach of having failed to keep the party informed of our activities and promised that in the future the Committee would hear from us whenever we were going to start something. Peace with the party was restored.

THE DUMA OF WRATH

The people had voted against the government. The rightist groups supporting the government, from the Octobrists to the Black Hundreds, received scarcely one per cent of the popular vote. Moderate liberals may have received five or six per cent. All other votes were cast for the Labor Group and Socialist parties. However, because of the system of indirect voting and unequal distribution of "electors" among the various classes of voters, the distribution of seats in the Duma was very different. The Cadets, together with national minority groups, obtained nearly two hundred seats out of the total four hundred. The reactionary parties to the right of them got eighty seats, and the representatives of the peasants' Labor Group, about a hundred. A score of workers' representatives originally joined the Labor Group but later formed a separate group. Thus the Cadets, who represented a small right-wing minority of the popular vote, became the center in the Duma.

A clash was inevitable between the Duma and the government, then headed by a sullen and reactionary bureaucrat, Goremykin. The government decided to try to weaken the Duma by discrediting it in the eyes of the people and to dissolve it as soon as it got out of hand. The opposition parties in the Duma were deeply split. The avowed goal of the Cadets was to persuade the Tsar to appoint a liberal Cabinet. A government acceptable to the Cadets probably

[1] Within the S-D organization in St. Petersburg, the Committee was the executive body, and the Conference was a broader policy-making body.